

NFPA®

120

Standard for
Fire Prevention and
Control in Coal Mines

2020



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NFPA® 120**Standard for****Fire Prevention and Control in Coal Mines****2020 Edition**

This edition of NFPA 120, *Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Coal Mines*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Mining Facilities. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 4, 2019, with an effective date of November 24, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 120 was approved as an American National Standard on November 24, 2019.

Origin and Development of NFPA 120

In 1977, with the formation of the Mining Committee, this standard, NFPA 120, formerly NFPA 653, was reassigned to the Committee on Mining Facilities. The change in numerical identity of the standard was in keeping with the numbering sequence assigned to the Mining Committee for other documents now under development. NFPA 120 represents a complete revision of former NFPA 653 and also includes changes in style in accordance with the NFPA *Manual of Style*.

The 1971 edition of NFPA 653, *Coal Preparation Plants*, was the same as the 1959 edition and was adopted at the NFPA 1971 Annual Meeting. The 1959 edition of NFPA 653 was prepared by the NFPA Committee on Dust Explosion Hazards and was adopted at the 1958 Annual Meeting with an amendment adopted in 1959.

The 1994 edition of NFPA 120 included a variety of technical and editorial updates. Previous editions not already mentioned include versions issued in 1984 and 1988.

The 1999 edition addressed the need for emergency lighting, expanded the types of portable fire extinguishers used, and expanded and clarified the types of fire suppression equipment used. The water supply requirements also were clarified.

The 2004 edition applied the NFPA *Manual of Style* to the document. It also incorporated all the appropriate sections of NFPA 121 and NFPA 123, which was done in an effort to consolidate common requirements.

The Coal Mining Task Group for the 2004 edition consisted of the following members: Matt Bujewski, Chair, Marsh Inc.; Tim Gierer, Alltype Fire Protection; Dennis Brohmer, Ansul Inc.; Jay Senn, Peabody Energy Group; Charlie Russell, Arch Coal Inc.; Brent Sullivan, Coteau Properties; Carol Boring, Mine Safety and Health Administration; Alex Smith, NIOSH; Mario Orozco, Zurich Services Corp.; Mike Wegleitner, Falkirk Mining Co. (alternate for Brent Sullivan); and Bill Wilson, U.S. Department of Labor (alternate for Carol Boring).

For the 2010 edition, the technical committee revised the fire prevention and fire protection provisions for coal mines by requiring the use of means to manage the spontaneous combustion potential of the coal being mined, including adding an inspection plan for carbon monoxide detection systems. The fire prevention practices for coal mines were improved by referencing the inspection and maintenance practices of fire suppression systems in the corresponding NFPA fire suppression standard. The committee provided improved fire protection for transformers by referencing NFPA 70®, *National Electrical Code*®, and adding NFPA 850, *Recommended Practice for Fire Protection for Electric Generating Plants and High Voltage Direct Current Converter Stations*, as an annex reference. Similarly, the standard was revised to make it consistent with fire protection industry practices and the updated provisions in NFPA 122, *Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Metal/Nonmetal Mining and Metal Mineral Processing Facilities*.

For the 2014 edition, the technical committee rewrote the sprinkler requirements in a more coherent manner and provided additional guidance for underground sprinkler systems. The committee established a common definition and a protection scheme for self-propelled, mobile, and portable equipment.

In the 2020 edition, the technical committee has added new fire safety material to Chapter 6 related to the use of spiral concentrators in coal processing facilities. Direction has been provided to the stakeholder regarding best practices during welding and cutting operations within the vicinity of spiral concentrators, including associated Annex A material for further guidance.

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This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on safeguarding life and property against fire, explosion, and related hazards associated with underground and surface coal and metal and nonmetal mining facilities and equipment.

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